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# **THE NAVAJO PREFERENCE IN EMPLOYMENT ACT**

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**(Amended August 1, 1985)  
(Amended October 25, 1990)**

**The Office of Navajo Labor Relations  
The Navajo Nation  
P.O. Drawer 1943  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515  
Phone (602) 871-6800/6801**



CO-73-90

Class "C" Resolution  
No BIA Action Required.  
Executive Branch Action  
Necessary

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

Amending the Navajo Preference in Employment Act,  
Title 15, Chapter 7 of the Navajo Tribal Code

WHEREAS:

1. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation, 2 N.T.C., Section 102; and

2. The ability of members of the Navajo Nation to secure and retain employment within the territorial jurisdiction implicates the health, safety and welfare of the Nation; and

3. Pursuant to an Executive Order, dated February 24, 1986, the Navajo Labor Investigative Task Force was created to assess and investigate labor issues important to the Nation; and

4. By Executive Order dated November 17, 1989, the Navajo Labor Investigative Task Force was reconstituted and its authority to investigate labor matters pursuant to the 1986 Executive Order was reaffirmed; and

5. During the course of its investigation, the Navajo Labor Investigative Task Force received comments in various forms concerning labor matters as well as company and union officials. The Task Force incorporated its findings into a document, entitled Report to the Navajo Nation Council Regarding the Proposed Amendments to the Navajo Preference in Employment Act. Based on these findings and the comments received from the interested public, the Task Force proposed that the Navajo Preference in Employment Act (15 N.T.C., Section 601, et. seq.) be amended; and

6. The Navajo Labor Investigative Task Force presented its report, minutes of public meetings it conducted and proposed amendments to the Navajo Preference Act to the Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council; and

7. Pursuant to its powers to recommend legislation on labor matters (2 N.T.C., Section 604(b)(3)), the Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council by Resolution HSC-0024-91 dated September 26, 1990, adopted the Report to the Navajo Nation Council Regarding the Proposed Amendments to the Navajo Preference in Employment Act and recommended that the Navajo Nation Council enact into law, the Proposed Amendments to the Navajo Preference in Employment Act. (Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit "A")

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Navajo Nation Council hereby repeals in its entirety, Title 15, Chapter 7 of the Navajo Tribal Code and enacts in its place, the amendments to Title 15, Chapter 7 of the Navajo Tribal Code, attached hereto as Exhibit "B", with the exception of Section 6 (B).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 63 in favor, 0 opposed and 9 abstained, this 25th day of October 1990.


  
Speaker  
Navajo Nation Council

October 29, 1990

Date Signed

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1. Pursuant to 2 N.T.C., Section 1005 (c)(1), I hereby sign into law the foregoing legislation this 5th day of November, 1990:

  
Leonard Haskie, Interim President  
Navajo Nation

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2. Pursuant to 2 N.T.C., Section 1005 (c)(10), I hereby veto the foregoing legislation this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1990 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leonard Haskie, Interim President  
Navajo Nation

**NAVAJO PREFERENCE IN EMPLOYMENT ACT**  
**AMENDED OCTOBER 1990**

**Section 1. TITLE**

- A. This Act shall be cited as the Navajo Preference in Employment Act and is hereby codified as Title 15 Chapter 7 of the Navajo Tribal Code.

**Section 2. PURPOSE**

- A. The purposes of the Navajo Preference in Employment Act are:
1. To provide employment opportunities for the Navajo work force;
  2. To provide training for the Navajo people;
  3. To promote the economic development of the Navajo Nation;
  4. To lessen the Navajo Nation's dependence upon off reservation sources of employment, income, goods and services;
  5. To foster the economic self-sufficiency of Navajo families; and
  6. To protect the health, safety, and welfare of Navajo workers;
  7. To foster cooperative efforts with employers to assure expanded employment opportunities for the Navajo work force.
- B. It is the intention of the Navajo Nation that the provisions of this Act be construed and applied to accomplish the purposes set forth above.

**Section 3. DEFINITIONS**

1. The term "Commission" shall mean the Navajo Nation Labor Commission.
2. The term "employment" shall include, but is not limited to, the recruitment, hiring, promotion, transfer, training, upgrading, reduction-in-force, retention, and recall of employees.
3. The term "employer" shall include all persons, firms, associations, corporations, and the Navajo Nation and all of its agencies and instrumentalities, who engage the services of any person for compensation, whether as employee, agent, or servant.
4. The term "Navajo" means any enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.
5. The term "ONLR" means the Office of Navajo Labor Relations.

6. The term "probable cause" shall mean a reasonable ground for belief in the existence of facts warranting the proceedings complained of.
7. The term "territorial jurisdiction" means the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation as defined in 7 NTC §254.
8. The term "counsel" or "legal counsel" shall mean (a) a person who is an active member in good standing of the Navajo Nation Bar Association and duly authorized to practice law in the courts of the Navajo Nation; and (b) for the sole purpose of co-counselling in association with a person described in clause (a), an attorney duly authorized, currently licensed and in good standing to practice law in any State of the United States who has, pursuant to written request demonstrating the foregoing qualifications and good cause, obtained written approval of the Commission to appear and participate as co-counsel in a particular Commission proceeding.
9. The term "necessary qualifications" shall mean those job-related qualifications which are essential to the performance of the basic responsibilities designated for each employment position, including any essential qualifications concerning education, training and job-related experience, but excluding any qualifications relating to ability or aptitude to perform responsibilities in other employment positions. Demonstrated ability to perform essential and basic responsibilities shall be deemed satisfaction of necessary qualifications.
10. The term "qualifications" shall include the ability to speak and/or understand the Navajo language, and familiarity with Navajo culture, customs and traditions.
11. The term "person" shall include individuals; labor organizations; tribal, federal, state and local governments, their agencies, subdivisions, instrumentalities and enterprises; and private and public, profit and non-profit, entities of all kinds having recognized legal capacity or authority to act, whether organized as corporations, partnerships, associations, committees or in any other form.
12. The term "employee" means an individual employed by an employer.
13. The term "employment agency" means a person regularly undertaking, with or without compensation, to procure employees for an employer or to obtain for employees opportunities to work for an employer.
14. The term "labor organization" or "union" means an organization in which employees participate or by which employees are represented and which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours or other terms and conditions of employment, including a national or international labor organization and any subordinate conference, general committee, joint or system board, or joint council.

15. The term "petitioner" means a person who files a complaint seeking to initiate a Commission proceeding under the Act.
16. The term "respondent" means the person against whom a complaint is filed by a petitioner.
17. The term "Act" means the Navajo Preference in Employment Act.

#### Section 4. NAVAJO EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE

- A. All employers doing business within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation, or engaged in any contract with the Navajo Nation shall:
1. Give preference in employment to Navajos. Preference in employment shall include specific Navajo affirmative action plans and timetables for all phases of employment to achieve the tribal goal of employing Navajos in all job classifications including supervisory and management positions.
  2. Within 90 days after the later of the effective date of this Section 4(A)(2) or the date on which an employer commences business within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation, the employer shall file with ONLR a written Navajo affirmative action plan which complies with this Section and other provisions of the Act. In any case where a labor organization represents employees of the employer, the plan shall be jointly filed by the employer and labor organization. Any such associated labor organization shall have obligations under this Section equivalent to those of the employer as to employees represented by such organization. Failure to file such a plan within the prescribed time limit, submission of a plan which does not comply with the requirements of the Act, or failing to implement or comply with the terms of a conforming plan shall constitute a violation of the Act. In the event of a required joint plan by an employer and associated labor organization, only the non-complying party shall be deemed in violation of the Act, as long as the other party has demonstrated a willingness and commitment to comply with the Act.
  3. Subject to the availability of adequate resources, ONLR shall provide reasonable guidance and assistance to employers and associated labor organizations in connection with the development and implementation of a Navajo affirmative action plan. Upon request, ONLR shall either approve or disapprove any plan, in whole or in part. In the event of approval thereof by ONLR, no Charge shall be filed hereunder with respect to alleged unlawful provisions or omissions in the plan, except upon 30 days prior written notice to the employer and any associated labor organization to enable voluntary correction of any stated deficiencies in such plan. No Charge shall be filed against an employer and any associated labor organization for submitting a non-conforming plan, except upon 30 days prior notice by ONLR identifying deficiencies in the plan which require correction.

**B. Specific Requirements for Navajo Preference**

1. All employers shall include and specify a Navajo employment preference policy statement in all job announcements and advertisements and employer policies covered by this Act.
2. All employers shall post in a conspicuous place on its premises for its employees and applicants a Navajo preference policy notice prepared by ONLR.
3. Any seniority system of an employer shall be subject to this Act and all other labor laws of the Navajo Nation. Such a seniority system shall not operate to defeat nor prevent the application of the Act; provided, however, that nothing in this Act shall be interpreted as invalidating an otherwise lawful and bona fide seniority system which is used as a selection or retention criterion with respect to any employment opportunity where the pool of applicants or candidates is exclusively composed of Navajos or non-Navajos.
4. The Navajo Nation when contracting with the federal or state government or one of its entities shall include provisions for Navajo preference in all phases of employment as provided herein. When contracting with any federal agency, the term Indian preference may be substituted for Navajo preference for federal purposes; provided that any such voluntary substitution shall not be construed as an implicit or express waiver of any provision of the Act nor a concession by the Navajo Nation that this Act is not fully applicable to the federal contract as a matter of law.
5. All employers shall utilize Navajo Nation employment sources and job services for employee recruitment and referrals; provided, however, that employers do not have the foregoing obligations in the event a Navajo is selected for the employment opportunity who is a current employee of the employer.
6. All employers shall advertise and announce all job vacancies in at least one newspaper and radio station serving the Navajo Nation; provided, however, that employers do not have the foregoing obligations in the event a Navajo is selected for the employment opportunity who is a current employee of the employer.
7. All employers shall use non-discriminatory job qualifications and selection criteria in employment.
8. All employers shall not penalize, discipline, discharge nor take any adverse action against any Navajo employee without just cause. A written notification to the employee citing such cause for any of the above actions is required in all cases.



9. All employers shall maintain a safe and clean working environment and provide employment conditions which are free of prejudice, intimidation and harassment.
10. Training shall be an integral part of the specific affirmative action plans or activities for Navajo preference in employment.
11. An employer-sponsored cross-cultural program shall be an essential part of the affirmative action plans required under the Act. Such program shall primarily focus on the education of non-Navajo employees, including management and supervisory personnel, regarding the cultural and religious traditions or beliefs of Navajos and their relationship to the development of employment policies which accommodate such traditions and beliefs. The cross-cultural program shall be developed and implemented through a process which involves the substantial and continuing participation of an employer's Navajo employees, or representative Navajo employees.
12. No fringe benefit plan addressing medical or other benefits, sick leave program or any other personnel policy of an employer, including policies jointly maintained by an employer and associated labor organization, shall discriminate against Navajos in terms or coverage as a result of Navajo cultural or religious traditions or beliefs. To the maximum extent feasible, all of the foregoing policies shall accommodate and recognize in coverage such Navajo traditions and beliefs.

C. Irrespective of the qualifications of any non-Navajo applicant or candidate, any Navajo applicant or candidate who demonstrates the necessary qualifications for an employment position:

1. Shall be selected by the employer in the case of hiring, promotion, transfer, upgrading, recall and other employment opportunities with respect to such position; and
2. Shall be retained by the employer in the case of a reduction-in-force affecting such class of positions until all non-Navajos employed in that class of positions are laid-off, provided that any Navajo who is laid-off in compliance with this provision shall have the right to displace a non-Navajo in any other employment position for which the Navajo demonstrates necessary qualifications.

Among a pool of applicants or candidates who are solely Navajo and meet the necessary qualifications, the Navajo with the best qualifications shall be selected or retained, as the case may be.

D. All employers shall establish written necessary qualifications for each employment position in their work force, a copy of which shall be provided to applicants or candidates at the time they express an interest in such position.

## **SECTION 5. REPORTS**

All employers doing business or engaged in any project or enterprise within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation or pursuant to a contract with the Nation shall submit employment information and reports as required to ONLR. Such reports, in a form acceptable to ONLR, shall include all information necessary and appropriate to determine compliance with the provisions of this Act. All reports shall be filed with ONLR not later than 10 business days after the end of each calendar quarter, provided that ONLR shall have the right to require filing of reports on a weekly or monthly schedule with respect to part-time or full-time temporary employment.

## **SECTION 6. UNION AND EMPLOYMENT AGENCY ACTIVITIES/RIGHTS OF NAVAJO WORKERS**

- A. Subject to lawful provisions of applicable collective bargaining agreements, the basic rights of Navajo workers to organize, bargain collectively, strike, and peaceable picket to secure their legal rights, shall not be abridged in any way by any person. The right to strike and picket does not apply to employees of the Navajo Nation, its agencies, or enterprises.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any labor organization, employer or employment agency to take any action, including action by contract, which directly or indirectly causes or attempts to cause the adoption or use of any employment practice, policy or decision which violates the Act.

## **SECTION 7. NAVAJO PREVAILING WAGE**

- A. Definitions. For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:
  - 1. The term "prevailing wage" shall mean the wage paid to a majority (more than 50 percent) of the employees in the classification on similar construction projects in the area during a period not to exceed 24 months prior to the effective date of the prevailing wage rate set hereunder; provided that in the event the same wage is not paid to a majority of the employees in the classification, "prevailing wage" shall mean the average of the wages paid, weighted by the total number of employees in the classification.
  - 2. The term "prevailing wage rate" shall mean the rate established by ONLR pursuant to this Section.
  - 3. The term "wage" shall mean the total of:
    - (A) the basic hourly rate; and
    - (B) the amount of (i) contributions irrevocably made by a contractor or

subcontractor to a trustee or to a third person pursuant to a bona fide fringe benefit fund, plan or program for the benefit of employees and (ii) costs to the contractor or subcontractor which may be reasonably anticipated in providing bona fide fringe benefits to employees pursuant to an enforceable commitment to carry out a financially responsible plan or program which was communicated in writing to the employees affected. The types of fringe benefits contemplated hereunder include medical or hospital health care, pensions on retirement or death, compensation for injuries or illness resulting from occupational activity, or insurance to provide any of the foregoing; unemployment benefits; life insurance, disability insurance, sickness insurance, or accident insurance; vacation or holiday pay; defraying costs of apprenticeship or other similar programs; or other bona fide fringe benefits.

4. The term "area" in determining the prevailing wage means the geographic area within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation; provided that in the event of insufficient similar construction projects in the area during the period in question, "area" shall include the geographic boundaries of such contiguous municipal, county or state governments as ONLR may determine necessary to secure sufficient wage information on similar construction projects.
5. The term "classifications" means all job positions in which persons are employed, exclusive of classifications with assigned duties which are primarily administrative, executive or clerical, and subject to satisfaction of the conditions prescribed in Sections (E)(7) and (8), exclusive of "apprentice" and "trainee" classifications as those terms are defined herein.
6. "Apprentice" means (a) a person employed and individually registered in a bona fide apprenticeship program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, or with an Apprenticeship Agency administered by a State or Indian Tribe and recognized by the Bureau, or (b) a person in the first 90 days of probationary employment as an apprentice in such an apprenticeship program, who is not individually registered in the program, but who has been certified by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training or a State or Tribal Apprenticeship Agency (where appropriate) to be eligible for probationary employment as an apprentice.
7. "Trainee" means a person registered and receiving on-the-job training in a construction occupation under a program which has been approved in advance by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, as meeting its standards for on-the-job training programs and which has been so certified by that Administration, or (b) employed and/or receiving on-the-job training under a public employment or work experience program which is approved and funded by the Navajo Nation.

8. The term "construction" shall mean all activity performed under a contract which relates to (a) the building, development, rehabilitation, repair, alteration or installation of structures and improvements of all types, including without limitation buildings, bridges, dams, plants, highways, sewers, water mains, powerlines and other structures; (b) drilling, blasting, excavating, clearing and landscaping, painting and decorating; (c) transporting materials and supplies to or from the site of any of the activities referred to in (a) or (b) by employees of the contractor or subcontractor; and (d) manufacturing or finishing materials, articles, supplies or equipment at the construction site of any of the foregoing activities by employees of the contractor or subcontractor.
9. The term "contract" shall mean the prime construction contract and all subcontracts of any tier thereunder entered into by parties engaged in commercial, business or governmental activities (whether or not such activities are conducted for profit).

**B. Establishment**

1. For all construction reasonably anticipated to occur in the area on a regular basis, ONLR shall establish a general prevailing wage rate for each classification within specified types of construction. ONLR shall define classifications and types of construction in accordance with guidelines generally recognized in the construction industry. In all cases where construction is contemplated for which prevailing wage rates have not been set, the contract letting entity shall submit to ONLR a written request for a project prevailing wage scale. Such request shall be submitted not less than 60 days prior to the scheduled date for bid solicitation and shall include detailed information on the anticipated construction classifications, nature of the project and completion plans. ONLR shall use its best efforts to provide a project prevailing wage scale, for each classification involved in the project construction, within 60 days after receipt of a request therefor.
2. In setting prevailing wage rates, ONLR shall conduct such surveys and collect such data as it deems necessary and sufficient to arrive at a wage determination. Wage data may be collected from contractors, contractors' associations, labor organizations, public officials and other sources which reflect wage rates paid in classifications on types of construction in the area, including the names and addresses of contractors and subcontractors; the locations, approximate costs, dates and types of construction; the number of workers employed in each classification on the project; and the wage rates paid such workers. Wage rate data for the area may be provided, and considered in making wage determinations, in various forms including signed statements, collective bargaining agreements and prevailing wage rates established by federal authorities for federally-assisted construction projects.
3. Any classification of workers not listed in a prevailing wage rate and which is to be used under a construction contract shall be classified in conformance

with the prevailing wage determination issued and applicable to the project; provided that an additional classification and prevailing wage rate therefor will be established in the event each of the following criteria are satisfied:

- (a) The work performed by the proposed classification is not performed by a classification within the existing prevailing wage scale;
  - (b) The proposed classification is utilized in the area by the construction industry; and
  - (c) The wages set for the proposed classification bear a reasonable relationship to the wage rates contained in the existing scale for other classifications.
4. (a) Subject to the prior written approval thereof by the Director of ONLR, a general prevailing wage rate shall be effective on the date notice of such rate is published in a newspaper in general circulation in the Navajo Nation. The notice shall contain the following information:
- (i) The fact a prevailing wage rate has been set and approved in writing by the Director of ONLR;
  - (ii) The type of construction for which the rate was established;
  - (iii) The effective date, described as the date of publication of the notice or other specified date;
  - (iv) The address and telephone number of ONLR; and
  - (v) A statement that ONLR will provide a copy of the full wage determination on request, and respond to any reasonable questions regarding such determination or its application.

General prevailing wage rates shall continue in effect until such time as any modifications are adopted.

- (b) A prevailing wage rate for a particular project shall be effective on the date of issuance to the requesting party of a written wage determination approved by the Director of ONLR. The wage determination shall continue in effect for the duration of the project; provided that any such determination may be modified by ONLR in the event the period of time from the effective date of the determination to the date bids are solicited exceeds 180 days and the estimated date of completion of the project is more than one year after the effective date of the determination.

- (c) Project and general wage determinations may be modified from time to time, in whole or in part, to adjust rates in conformity with current conditions, subject to the special conditions applicable to project determinations. Such modifications become effective upon the same terms and conditions which are applicable to original determinations.
- (d) Fringe Benefits. The fringe benefit amount of wages reflected in a prevailing wage rate shall be paid in cash to the employee, and shall not be deducted from such employee's wages, unless each of the following conditions is satisfied:
  - (i) The deduction is not contrary to applicable law;
  - (ii) A voluntary and informed written consent authorizing the deduction is obtained from the employee in advance of the period in which the work is to be done and such consent is not a condition either for the obtaining or continuing employment;
  - (iii) No profit or other benefit is obtained as a result of a deduction, directly or indirectly, by the contractor, subcontractor or any person affiliated with them in the form of a commission, dividend or other consideration; and
  - (iv) The deduction serves the convenience and interests of the employee.

- D. 1. No contract-letting entity, contractor or subcontractor shall proceed with a construction contract subject to this Section in the absence of a contractual requirement for payment of prevailing wages pursuant to a specified wage determination issued by ONLR. Violation of this obligation shall render the contract-letting entity, and the employer contractor or subcontractor, jointly and severally liable for the difference between wages actually paid and the prevailing wage rate, together with interest thereon (or if no prevailing wage rates have been set, such wage rate as may be issued by ONLR during the course, or after the completion, of the construction project).
- 2. Failure by any employer, contractor or subcontractor to pay prevailing wages shall render such employer liable for the difference between the amount of wages actually paid and the prevailing rate, together with interest thereon.
- 3. Any deduction of fringe benefits by an employer contractor or subcontractor in violation of Section 7(C) shall render such employer liable for the amount of such deduction, together with interest thereon.
- 4. Upon written request of ONLR, a contract-letting entity or contractor, as the case may be, shall withhold from any monies payable on account of work performed by an employer contractor or subcontractor under a construction

contract such sums as may be determined by ONLR as necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid prevailing wages or wrongful deduction of fringe benefits.

5. If following a hearing under Section 11 a contract-letting entity (other than the Navajo Nation), contractor or subcontractor is found to have willfully violated this Section the Commission may enter a debarment order disqualifying such party from receiving any contract, or subcontract thereunder, with the Navajo Nation for a period not to exceed three years.
6. The liabilities described in this Section 7(D) shall not foreclose the Commission from awarding such other relief or imposing such other civil penalties as may be appropriate following a hearing conducted under Section 11.

E. Exemptions. This Section shall not apply to:

1. A contract associated with a construction activity which relates to the provision of architect, engineer, legal or consultant services, or, except as provided under Section 7(A)(8)(d), the manufacturing or furnishing of materials or performance of services and maintenance work by persons not employed by a prime contractor or any of its subcontractors.
2. A construction contract relating to a project having a total cost of \$2,000 or less.
3. A construction contract which is let by a natural person who is an owner or person legally authorized to let such contract, for such person's personal, family or household purposes.
4. A construction contract to the extent the work thereunder is performed by employees of the owner, or employees of the person or entity legally authorized to let the prime contract.
5. A construction contract for a project receiving federal financial assistance to the extent the prevailing wage is set by federal authorities pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. §§ 276a et seq. (as amended), or other federal law applicable to such project.
6. A construction contract to the extent such contract requires payment of wages pursuant to a wage scale established under a collective bargaining agreement between any contractor or subcontractor and a labor organization.
7. With the exception of the provisions of Section 7(C), an apprentice provided that the apprentice is paid not less than (a) the basic hourly rate prescribed in the registered program for the apprentice's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the applicable journeyman rate specified in the prevailing



wage rate, and (b) the fringe benefit amount prescribed in the registered program or, if not specified, the fringe benefit amount set in the prevailing wage rate for the applicable journeyman classification. An apprentice who is not enrolled in a registered program (within the meaning of Section 7(A)(6)), shall be paid wages in an amount not less than the level prescribed for the applicable journeyman classification specified in the prevailing wage rate.

8. With the exception of the provisions of Section 7(c), a trainee provided that the trainee is paid not less than (a) the basic hourly rate prescribed in the approved program for the trainee's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the applicable journeyman rate specified in the prevailing wage rate and (2) the fringe benefit amount prescribed in the approved program or, if not specified and as to federally approved programs only, the fringe benefit amount set in the prevailing wage rate for the applicable journeyman classification. A trainee who is not enrolled in an approved program (within the meaning of Section 7(A)(8)), shall be paid wages in an amount not less than the level prescribed for the applicable journeyman classification specified in the prevailing wage rate.

## **SECTION 8. HEALTH AND SAFETY OF NAVAJO WORKERS**

Employers shall, with respect to business conducted within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation, adopt and implement work practices which conform to occupational safety and health standards imposed by law.

## **SECTION 9. CONTRACT COMPLIANCE**

- A. All transaction documents, including without limitation, leases, subleases, contracts, subcontracts, permits, and collective bargaining agreements between employers and labor organizations (herein collectively "transaction documents") which are entered into by or issued to any employer and which are to be performed within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation shall contain a provision pursuant to which the employer and any other contracting party affirmatively agree to strictly abide by all requirements of this Act. With respect to any transaction document which does not contain the foregoing provision, the terms and provisions of this Act are incorporated therein as a matter of law and the requirements of the Act shall constitute affirmative contractual obligations of the contracting parties. In addition to the sanctions prescribed by the Act, violation of the Act shall also provide grounds for the Navajo Nation to invoke such remedies for breach as may be available under the transaction document or applicable law. To the extent of any inconsistency or conflict between a transaction document and the Act, the provision of the transaction document in question shall be legally invalid and unenforceable and the Act shall prevail and govern the subject of the inconsistency or conflict.
- B. Every bid solicitation, request for proposals and associated notices and advertisements which relate to prospective contracts to be performed within the



territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation shall expressly provide that the contract shall be performed in strict compliance with this Act. With respect to any such solicitation, request, notice or advertisement which does not contain the foregoing provision, the terms and provisions of this Act are incorporated therein as a matter of law.

## **SECTION 10. MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT**

**A. Responsible Agency.** Compliance with the Act shall be monitored and enforced by ONLR.

**B. Charges.**

- 1. Charging Party.** Any Navajo may file a charge ("Individual Charge") claiming a violation of his/her rights under the Act. ONLR, on its own initiative, may file a charge ("ONLR Charge") claiming a violation of rights under the Act held by identified Navajos or a class of Navajos, including a claim that respondent is engaging in a pattern of conduct or practice in violation of rights guaranteed by the Act. An Individual Charge and ONLR Charge are collectively referred to herein as a "Charge".
- 2. Form and Content.** A Charge shall be in writing, signed by the charging party (which shall be the Director of ONLR in the case of an ONLR Charge), and contain the following information:
  - (a) The name, address and any telephone number of the charging party;
  - (b) The name and address or business location of the respondent against whom the Charge is made;
  - (c) A clear and concise statement of the facts constituting the alleged violation of the Act, including the dates of each violation and other pertinent events and the names of individuals who committed, participated in or witnessed the acts complained of;
  - (d) With respect to a Charge alleging a pattern or practice in violation of the Act, the period of time during which such pattern or practice has existed and whether it continues on the date of the Charge;
  - (e) The specific harm sustained by the charging party in the case of an Individual Charge or the specific harm sustained by specified Navajos or a class of Navajos with respect to an ONLR Charge; and
  - (f) A statement disclosing whether proceedings involving the alleged violation have been initiated before any court or administrative agency or within any grievance process maintained by the respondent, including the date of commencement, the court, agency or process and the status of the proceeding.

ONLR shall provide assistance to persons who wish to file Individual Charges. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, a Charge shall be deemed sufficient if it contains a reasonably precise identification of the charging party and respondent, and the action, pattern or practice which are alleged to violate the Act.

3. **Place of Filing.** Individual Charges may be filed in any office of ONLR. An ONLR Charge shall be filed in ONLR's administrative office in Window Rock.
4. **Date of Filing.** Receipt of each Individual Charge shall be acknowledged by the dated signature of an ONLR employee which shall be deemed the date on which the Individual Charge is filed. The date on which an ONLR Charge is signed by the ONLR Director shall be deemed the date of filing for such Charge.
5. **Amendment.** A Charge may be amended by filing, in the office where the Charge was first submitted, a written instrument which sets forth the amendment and any portions of the original Charge revised thereby. To the extent the information reflected in the amendment arose out of the subject matter of the original Charge, the amendment shall relate back and be deemed filed as of the filing date of such Charge. Any portion of the amendment which does not qualify for relation back treatment shall constitute a new Charge.
6. **Time Limitation.** A Charge shall be filed within one year after accrual of the claim which constitutes the alleged violation of the Act. The date of accrual of a claim shall be the earlier of
  - (a) the date on which the charging party had actual knowledge of the claim, or
  - (b) taking into account the circumstances of the charging party, the date on which the charging party should reasonably have been expected to know of the existence of the claim; provided, however, that a Charge relating to a continuing, or pattern or practice, violation of the Act shall be filed within one year after the later of
    - (i) the date of termination of such violation, pattern or practice or
    - (ii) the date of accrual of the claim to which the Charge relates. Failure to file a Charge within the time limitations prescribed herein shall bar proceedings on the related claim before the Commission or in any Court of the Navajo Nation; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be interpreted as foreclosing proceedings before any Navajo Court or administrative body (other than the Commission) on any claim which also arises

under applicable common, statutory or other law independent of this Act.

7. **Notice to Respondent.** Within 20 days after a Charge is filed, ONLR shall serve a copy thereof on respondent; provided, however, that if in ONLR's judgment service of a copy of the Charge would impede its enforcement functions under the Act, ONLR may in lieu of a copy serve on respondent a notice of the Charge which contains the date, place and summary of relevant facts relating to the alleged violation, together with the identity of the charging party unless withheld for the reason stated above. Service of any amendment to the Charge shall be accomplished within 20 days after the amendment is filed. Failure of ONLR to serve a copy of a Charge or notice thereof within the prescribed time period shall not be a ground for dismissal of the Charge or any subsequent proceedings thereon.
8. **Withdrawal of Charge.**
  - (a) ONLR may, in its discretion, withdraw any ONLR Charge upon written notice thereof to respondent and each person identified in the Charge whose rights under the Act were alleged to have been violated. Any person receiving notice of withdrawal or any other person who asserts a violation of his/her rights as a result of the violation alleged in the withdrawn ONLR Charge may file an Individual Charge which, if filed within 90 days after the issuance date of ONLR's withdrawal notice, shall relate back to the filing date of the ONLR Charge.
  - (b) Any charging party may, in his/her discretion, withdraw an Individual Charge by filing a written notice of withdrawal with the ONLR office where the Charge was submitted, with a copy thereof filed with the ONLR administrative office in Window Rock. ONLR shall, within 20 days after receiving the notice, transmit a copy to the respondent. Within 90 days after receipt of the withdrawal notice, ONLR may file an ONLR Charge relating in whole or part to the violations alleged in the withdrawn Individual Charge. Any filing of an ONLR Charge within the prescribed time period shall relate back to the filing date of the withdrawn Charge.
9. **Overlapping Charges.** Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting the filing of any combination of Individual Charges and an ONLR Charge which, in whole or part, contain common allegations of violations of the Act.
10. **Informants.** Irrespective of whether a person is otherwise eligible to file an Individual Charge, any such person or an organization may in lieu of filing a Charge submit to ONLR written or verbal information concerning alleged violations of the Act and may further request ONLR to file an ONLR Charge thereon. In addition to other limitations on disclosure provided in Section 10(M) and in the absence of the written consent of the informant, neither the

identity of the informant nor any information provided by such informant shall be disclosed to the respondent, agents or legal counsel for the respondent, or the public, either voluntarily by ONLR or pursuant to any discovery or other request for, or order relating to, such information during the course of any judicial or non-judicial proceeding, including a proceeding before the Commission or any subsequent appeal or challenge to a Commission or appellate decision; provided, however, that in the event the informant is called as a witness by ONLR at a Commission proceeding involving the information provided by the informant,

- (a) the informant's name may be disclosed, but his/her status as an informant shall remain privileged and confidential and shall not be disclosable through witness examination or otherwise, and
- (b) with the exception of the witness status as an informer, information provided by the informant is disclosable in accordance with the procedures outlined under Section 10(M).

**C. Investigation of Charges.**

1. **General.** ONLR shall conduct such investigation of a Charge as it deems necessary to determine whether there is probable cause to believe the Act has been violated.
2. **Subpoenas.**
  - (a) The Director of ONLR shall have the authority to sign and issue a subpoena compelling the disclosure by any person evidence relevant to a Charge, including a subpoena ordering, under oath as may be appropriate:
    - (i) The attendance and testimony of witnesses;
    - (ii) Responses to written interrogatories;
    - (iii) The production of evidence, including without limitation books, records, correspondence or other documents (or lists or summaries thereof) in the subpoenaed person's possession, custody or control or which are lawfully obtainable by such person; and
    - (iv) Access to evidence for the purposes of examination and copying. Neither an individual charging party nor a respondent shall have a right to demand issuance of a subpoena prior to the initiation of any proceedings on the Charge before the Commission, in which event subpoenas are issuable only pursuant to the procedures governing such proceedings.

- (b) Service of the subpoena shall be effected by one of the methods prescribed in Section 10(O). A subpoena directed to a natural person shall be served either on the person at his/her residence or office address or, in the case of personal delivery, at such residence or office either on the person subpoenaed or on anyone at least eighteen years of age (and in the case of office service, a person who is also an employee of such office). Service of a subpoena directed to any other person shall be addressed or delivered to either the statutory agent (if any) of such person or any employee occupying a managerial or supervisory position at any office of the person maintained within or outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation. Personal service may be performed by a natural person at least eighteen years of age, including an employee of ONLR.
- (c) The subpoena shall set a date, time and place for the attendance of a witness, or production of or access to evidence, as the case may be, provided that the date for compliance shall be not less than 30 days after the date on which service of the subpoena was effected.
- (d) Any person served with a subpoena intending not to fully comply therewith shall, within five business days after service, serve on the Director of ONLR a petition requesting the modification or revocation of the subpoena and identifying with particularity each portion of the subpoena which is challenged and the reasons therefor. To the extent any portion of the subpoena is not challenged, the unchallenged parts shall be complied with in accordance with the terms of the subpoena as issued. The ONLR Director shall issue and serve on petitioner a decision and reasons therefor within eight business days following receipt of the petition, and any failure to serve a decision within such period shall be deemed a denial of the petition. In the event the Director's decision reaffirms any part of the subpoena challenged in the petition, the Director may extend the date for compliance with such portion for a period not to exceed 10 business days. Any petitioner dissatisfied with the decision of the ONLR Director shall either
- (1) comply with the subpoena (with any modifications thereto reflected in the Director's decision) or
  - (2) within five business days following receipt of the Director's decision or the date such decision was due, file a petition with the Commission (with a copy concurrently served on the ONLR Director) seeking modification or revocation of the subpoena and stating with particularity therein each portion of the subpoena challenged and the reasons therefor. A copy of the ONLR Director's decision, if any, shall be attached to the petition.

- (e) In the event a person fails to comply with a served subpoena, ONLR may petition the Commission for enforcement of the subpoena. For purposes of awarding any relief to petitioner, the Commission may issue any order appropriate and authorized in a case where it is established that a Commission order has been violated. A copy of the petition shall be concurrently served on the non-complying person.
- (f) Beginning on the first day of non-compliance with a subpoena served on a respondent, or any employee or agent of respondent, until the date of full compliance therewith, there shall be a tolling of all periods of limitation set forth in this Section 10.

**D. Dismissal of Charges.**

- 1. **Individual Charges.** ONLR shall dismiss an Individual Charge upon reaching any one or more of the following determinations:
  - (a) The Individual Charge, on its face or following an ONLR investigation, fails to demonstrate that probable cause exists to believe a violation of the Act has occurred;
  - (b) The Individual Charge was not filed within the time limit prescribed by Section 10(B)(6);
  - (c) The charging party has failed to reasonably cooperate in the investigation of, or attempts to settle, the Individual Charge;
  - (d) The charging party has refused, within 30 days of receipt, to accept a settlement offer agreed to by respondent and approved by ONLR, which accords substantially full relief for the harm sustained by such party; or
  - (e) The Charge has been settled pursuant to Section 10(G).
- 2. **ONLR Charges.** ONLR shall dismiss an ONLR Charge upon determining that
  - (a) no probable cause exists to believe a violation of the Act has occurred,
  - (b) the Charge was not filed within the time limits prescribed by Section 10(B)(6), or
  - (c) the Charge has been settled pursuant to Section 10(G).
- 3. **Partial Dismissal.** In the event a portion of a Charge is dismissable on one or more of the foregoing grounds, only such portion of the Charge

shall be dismissed and the remainder retained by ONLR for final disposition.

4. Notice. Written notice of dismissal, stating the grounds therefor, shall be served on respondent and the individual charging party in the case of an Individual Charge or, in the case of an ONLR Charge, on the respondent and any person known to ONLR who claims to be aggrieved by the violations alleged in such Charge. Such notice shall be accompanied by a right to sue authorization pursuant to Section 10(H).

E. Probable Cause Determination. Following its investigation of a Charge and in the absence of a settlement or dismissal required under Section 10(D), ONLR shall issue written notice of its determination that probable cause exists to believe a violation of the Act has occurred or is occurring. Such notice shall identify each violation of the Act for which probable cause has been found, and copies thereof shall be promptly sent to the respondent, the charging party in the case of an Individual Charge, and, in the case of an ONLR Charge, each person identified by ONLR whose rights are believed to have been violated. Any probable cause determination shall be based on, and limited to, the evidence obtained by ONLR and shall not be deemed a judgment by ONLR on the merits of allegations not addressed in the determination.

F. Conciliation. If, following its investigation of a Charge, ONLR determines there is probable cause to believe the Act has been or is being violated, ONLR shall make a good faith effort to secure compliance and appropriate relief by informal means through conference, conciliation and persuasion. In the event there is a failure to resolve the matter informally as to any allegations in an Individual Charge for which probable cause has been determined, ONLR shall either issue the notice prescribed in Section 10(H) or initiate a Commission proceeding under Section 10(I) concerning unresolved allegations. A successful resolution of any such allegation shall be committed to writing in the form required under Section 10(G). Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting ONLR from initiating or participating in efforts to informally resolve a Charge prior to issuance of a probable cause determination.

G. Settlement.

1. Settlement agreements shall be committed to writing and executed by respondent, the individual charging party if any and, in the case of any Charge, by the Director of ONLR. Refusal of an individual charging party to execute a settlement agreement subjects the Individual Charge to dismissal under the conditions set forth in Section 10(D)(1)(d). Settlement agreements may also be signed by those aggrieved persons identified as having a claim with respect to an ONLR Charge.
2. Settlement agreements hereunder shall be enforceable among the parties thereto in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Any member of a

class of persons affected by the settlement who is not a signatory to the agreement shall have the right to initiate proceedings before the Commission pursuant to the procedure in Section 10(H)(2)(a)(iii).

3. Each settlement agreement shall provide for the dismissal of the Charge to the extent the violations alleged therein are resolved under the agreement.
4. Any breach of a settlement agreement by respondent shall present grounds for filing a Charge under this Section 10. A charging party asserting a claim for breach may either seek
  - (a) enforcement of that portion of the settlement agreement alleged to have been breached, or
  - (b) in the case of a material breach as to any or all terms, partial or total rescission of the agreement, as the case may be, and such other and further relief as may have been available in the absence of settlement. A Charge asserting a breach of a settlement agreement with respect to any original allegation in the Charge covered by such agreement shall, for purposes of all time limitations in this Section 10, be deemed to arise on the accrual date of the breach.

#### H. Individual Right to Sue.

##### 1. Individual Charges.

- (a) Prior to the expiration of 180 days following the date an Individual Charge was filed, ONLR, by notice to the individual charging party, shall authorize such individual to initiate a proceeding before the Commission in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Section 10(J), if:
  - (i) The Individual Charge has been dismissed by ONLR pursuant to Section 10(D)(1);
  - (ii) ONLR has issued a probable cause determination under Section 10(E), there has been a failure of conciliation contemplated by Section 10(F), and ONLR has determined not to initiate a Commission proceeding on behalf of the individual charging party; or
  - (iii) Notwithstanding the absence of a probable cause determination or conclusion of conciliation efforts, ONLR certifies it will be unable to complete one or both of these steps within 180 days after the date on which the Individual Charge was filed.
- (b) After the expiration of 180 days following the date an Individual Charge was filed, the individual charging party shall have the right to



initiate a proceeding before the Commission irrespective of whether ONLR has issued a notice of right to sue, made a probable cause determination, or commenced or concluded conciliation efforts.

**2. ONLR Charges.**

- (a) Prior to the expiration of 180 days following the date an ONLR Charge was filed, ONLR, by notice to any person known to it who claims to be aggrieved by the allegations presented in such Charge, shall authorize such person to initiate a proceeding before the Commission in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Section 10(J), if:
  - (i) The ONLR Charge has been dismissed by ONLR pursuant to Section 10(D)(2);
  - (ii) ONLR has issued a probable cause determination under Section 10(E), there has been a failure of conciliation contemplated by Section 10(F), and ONLR has determined not to initiate a Commission proceeding on the Charge;
  - (iii) ONLR has entered into a settlement agreement under Section 10(G) to which such aggrieved person is not a party; or
  - (iv) Notwithstanding the absence of a probable cause determination or conclusion of conciliation efforts, ONLR certifies it will be unable to complete one or both of these steps within 180 days after the date on which the ONLR Charge was filed.
- (b) After the expiration of 180 days following the date an ONLR Charge was filed and prior to the date on which ONLR commences a Commission proceeding, any person claiming to be aggrieved by the allegations presented in such Charge shall have the right to initiate a proceeding before the Commission irrespective of whether ONLR has issued a notice of right to sue, made a probable cause determination or commenced or concluded conciliation efforts.

**3. Content of Notice.** A notice of right to sue shall include the following information:

- (a) Authorization to the individual charging party or aggrieved person to initiate a proceeding before the Commission pursuant to and within the time limits prescribed by Section 10(J);
- (b) A summary of the procedures applicable to the institution of such proceeding, or a copy of the Act containing such procedures;
- (c) A copy of the Charge; and

(d) A copy of any written determination of ONLR with respect to such Charge.

4. ONLR Assistance. Authorization to commence Commission proceedings hereunder shall not prevent ONLR from assisting any individual charging party or aggrieved person in connection with Commission proceedings or other efforts to remedy the alleged violations of the Act.

I. ONLR Right to Sue.

1. Individual Charges. ONLR shall have the right to initiate proceedings before the Commission based on the allegations of an Individual Charge with respect to which ONLR has issued a probable cause determination under Section 10(E) and there has been a failure of conciliation contemplated by Section 10(F). ONLR shall have such right notwithstanding that the individual charging party has a concurrent right to sue hereunder which has not been exercised. ONLR's right to sue shall continue until such time as the individual charging party commences a Commission proceeding and, in that case, shall be revived in the event the proceeding is dismissed or concluded for reasons unrelated to the merits. Initiation of Commission proceedings by ONLR shall terminate the right to sue of an individual charging party, subject to revival of such right in the event the proceeding is dismissed or concluded for reasons unrelated to the merits. Nothing herein shall be construed as foreclosing ONLR from exercising its right to intervene in a Commission proceeding under Section 10(L).
2. ONLR Charges. ONLR shall have the right to initiate proceedings before the Commission based on the allegations of an ONLR Charge with respect to which ONLR has issued a probable determination under Section 10(E) and there has been a failure of conciliation contemplated by Section 10(F). ONLR shall have such right notwithstanding that a person claiming to be aggrieved as a result of the allegations in the ONLR Charge has a concurrent right to sue hereunder which has not been exercised. In the event an aggrieved person first initiates a Commission proceeding in an authorized manner, ONLR's right to sue shall only expire as to such person and shall revive in the event the aggrieved person's proceeding is dismissed or concluded for reasons unrelated to the merits. Nothing herein shall be construed as foreclosing ONLR from exercising its right to intervene in a Commission proceeding under Section 10(L).

J. Initiation of Commission Proceedings. Proceedings before the Commission shall be initiated upon the filing of a written complaint by a petitioner with the Commission. Complaints shall satisfy each of the following conditions:

1. The petitioner is authorized to file the Complaint under the terms and conditions prescribed by this Section 10;

2. The underlying Charge was filed within the time limits prescribed in Section 10(B)(6); and
3. The complaint was filed within 360 days following the date on which the underlying Charge was filed.

Upon motion of respondent and a showing that any one or more of the foregoing conditions has not been satisfied, the Commission shall dismiss the complaint; provided, however, that no complaint shall be dismissed under (2) above as to any allegation of a pattern of conduct or practice in violation of the Act to the extent such pattern or practice continued to persist during the time limit prescribed in Section 10(B)(6); and provided further that, in the absence of dismissal or conclusion of Commission proceedings on the merits, nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting the refiling of a Charge alleging the same or comparable pattern or practice violations of the Act which continued to persist during the time limits prescribed in Section 10(B)(6) for refiling such Charge.

- K. Preliminary Relief. Prior to the initiation of Commission proceedings on a Charge and notwithstanding the failure to satisfy any precondition to such proceedings, either ONLR, an individual charging party or aggrieved person may, upon notice to respondent, petition the Commission for appropriate temporary or preliminary relief in the form of an injunction or other equitable remedy on the ground that prompt action is necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act, including the preservation and protection of rights thereunder. Nothing herein shall be construed as foreclosing a petition which seeks comparable relief subsequent to the commencement of Commission proceedings.
- L. Intervention in Commission Proceedings. Within three business days after the date on which any complaint, or petition pursuant to Section 10(K), is filed with the Commission, other than a complaint or petition filed by ONLR, the Commission shall cause copies thereof to be sent to the ONLR Director and the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation. ONLR shall have an unconditional right to intervene in the Commission proceeding initiated by such complaint or petition upon the timely application by motion accompanied by a pleading setting forth the claims for which intervention is sought.
- M. Confidentiality.
1. Conciliation. In the absence of written consent of the persons concerned, statements or offers of settlement made, documents provided or conduct by participants in conciliation efforts under Section 10(F) shall not be admissible in any Commission or other proceeding relating to the Charge which is the subject of conciliation, to prove liability for or invalidity of the Charge or the amount or nature of relief therefor; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the exclusion of such evidence merely because it was presented in the course of conciliation if:

- (a) The evidence is otherwise discoverable; or
  - (b) The evidence is offered for another purpose, including without limitation, proving bias or prejudice of a witness, negating a contention of undue delay, or proving an effort to obstruct a criminal investigation or prosecution.
2. **Charge, Records and Information.** Prior to the institution of Commission proceedings thereon, and in the absence of the written consent of the persons concerned, ONLR shall not disclose as a matter of public information any Charge, response thereto, any statements or other information obtained in the course of its investigation of the Charge, except that nothing herein shall prevent earlier disclosure of such information by ONLR in its discretion:
- (a) To charging parties or their attorneys, respondents or their attorneys, witnesses or other interested persons where the disclosure is deemed by ONLR to be necessary for securing a resolution of the Charge, including appropriate relief therefor;
  - (b) To employees or representatives of the Navajo Nation or employees or representatives of federal, state or local authorities having a governmental interest in the subject matter of the Charge; or
  - (c) To persons for the purpose of publishing data derived from such information in a form which does not reveal the identity of charging parties, aggrieved persons, respondents or persons supplying the information.

Except as otherwise provided herein, any person to whom a permissible disclosure is made hereunder shall be bound to maintain the confidentiality of such information from further disclosure and shall use the information solely for the purpose for which it was disclosed.

3. **Privileged Information.** Neither ONLR, charging parties, aggrieved persons, respondents, witnesses or persons supplying information in connection with a Charge shall be compelled, either before or after commencement of Commission proceedings, to disclose any information which represents the opinions or conclusions formed by ONLR during the course of its investigation of a Charge, or any information which is protected by the attorney-client privilege, the informer's privilege referred to in Section 10(B)(10), or any other absolute or limited privilege recognized under the laws of the Navajo Nation. To the extent justice requires, the Commission may, balancing the rights of parties and affected persons, prohibit or limit the disclosure of any other information for good cause shown, including a showing that disclosure would impede enforcement of the Act, jeopardize rights guaranteed thereunder, or cause annoyance, embarrassment, oppression or undue burden or expense to parties or affected persons.

- N. **Non-retaliation.** It shall be unlawful for any employer, labor organization, joint labor-management committee involved in apprenticeship or other matters relating to employment, employment agency or other person to, directly or indirectly, take, or attempt to induce another person to take, any action adversely affecting
- (1) the terms and conditions of any person's employment or opportunities associated with such employment,
  - (2) an applicant's opportunity for employment,
  - (3) the membership of an employee or applicant for employment in a labor organization, or
  - (4) any other right, benefit, privilege or opportunity unrelated to employment, because such person has opposed an employment practice subject to this Act or has made a charge, testified, or assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding or hearing under the Act.
- O. **Service of Documents.** Service of any notice, determination or other document required to be transmitted under this Section 10 shall be accomplished by personal delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested.

#### Section 11. HEARING

- A. The Commission shall schedule a hearing within sixty (60) days of the filing of a written complaint by a petitioner with the Commission. The hearing shall be held at a location designated by the Commission.
1. **Notice:** The Commission shall issue a notice of hearing. The time and place of the hearing shall be clearly described in the notice. The notice shall also set forth in clear and simple terms the nature of the alleged violations and shall state (1) the violations may be contested at a hearing before the Commission, and (2) any party may appear by counsel and cross examine adverse witnesses.
  2. Upon application by a party to the Commission, or on the Commissions' own motion, the Commission may issue subpoenas compelling the disclosure by any person evidence relevant to the complaint, including a subpoena ordering, under oath as may be appropriate:
    - (a) The attendance and testimony of witnesses;
    - (b) Responses to written interrogatories;
    - (c) The production of evidence; and
    - (d) Access to evidence for the purpose of examination and copying.
  3. The Commission is hereby authorized to administer oaths and compel attendance of any person at a hearing and to compel production of any documents.

4. In the event a party does not make an appearance on the day set for hearing or fails to comply with the rules of procedure set forth by the Commission for the conduct of hearings, the Commission is hereby authorized to enter a default determination against the non-appearing and/or noncomplying party.
- B. **Burden of Proof:** In any compliance review, complaint proceeding, investigation, or hearing, the burden of proof shall be upon the respondent to show compliance with the provisions of this Act by clear and convincing evidence.
- C. **Hearing:** The Commission shall conduct the hearing in a fair and orderly manner and extend to all parties the right to be heard.
  1. The Commission shall not be bound by any formal rules of evidence.
  2. The respondent shall have the opportunity to answer the complaint and the parties shall have the right to legal counsel, present witnesses, and cross-examine adverse witnesses.
  3. The Commission shall issue its decision by a majority vote of a quorum present and shall be signed by the Chairman of the Commission.
  4. Copies of the decision shall be sent to all parties of record in the proceeding by certified mail, return receipt.
  5. The proceeding shall be recorded. Any party may request a transcript of the proceeding at their own expense.
  6. The decision of the Commission shall be final with a right of appeal only on questions of law to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

## **Section 12. REMEDIES AND SANCTIONS**

- A. If, following notice and hearing, the Commission finds that respondent has violated the Act, the Commission shall:
  1. Issue one or more remedial orders, including without limitation, directed hiring, reinstatement, displacement of non-Navajo employees, backpay, frontpay, injunctive relief, mandated corrective action to cure the violation within a reasonable period of time, and/or, upon a finding of intentional violation, imposition of civil fines; provided that liability for backpay or other forms of compensatory damages shall not accrue from a date more than two years prior to the date of filing of the Charge which is the basis for the complaint.
  2. In the case of an individual suit initiated pursuant to Section 10(H) award costs and attorneys' fees if the respondent's position was not substantially justified.

3. Refer matters involving respondent contracts, agreements, leases and permits to the Navajo Nation Attorney General for appropriate action.

B. In the absence of a showing of good cause thereof, if any party to a proceeding under this Act fails to comply with a subpoena or order issued by the Commission, the Commission may impose such sanctions as are just, including without limitation any one or more of the following:

- (1) In the case of noncompliance with a subpoena of documents or witnesses:

- (a) An order that the matters regarding which the subpoena was issued or any other designated facts shall be deemed established for the purposes of the proceeding and in accordance with the claim of the party obtaining the order;
- (b) An order refusing to allow the disobedient party to support or oppose designated claims or defenses, or prohibiting that party from introducing designated matters in evidence;
- (c) An order striking pleadings or parts thereof, or staying further proceedings until the subpoena is obeyed, or dismissing the action or proceeding or any part thereof, or rendering a judgment by default against the disobedient party.

- (2) In the case of noncompliance by a party or nonparty with a Commission subpoena of documents or witnesses or with any other order of the Commission:

- (a) An order holding the disobedient person in contempt of the Commission and imposing appropriate sanctions therefor, including a civil fine;
- (b) An order directing the disobedient person to pay the reasonable costs and/or attorney's fees caused by the noncompliance.

C. The person or party in whose favor a Commission's decision providing for remedial action is entered shall have the right to seek legal and/or equitable relief in the District Courts of the Navajo Nation to enforce the remedial action; provided that the Commission itself shall have the right to seek legal and/or equitable relief in the District Courts of the Navajo Nation to enforce civil fines or sanctions imposed by the Commission against a person or party. In both instances the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation shall have an unconditional right to intervene on behalf of the Navajo Nation. Any attempted enforcement of a Commission order or decision directing payment of money by the Navajo Nation or any of its governmental entities shall, with respect to the extent of any liability be governed by the Navajo Sovereign Immunity Act, 1 N.T.C. §§351 et seq., as amended.

### **Section 13. APPEAL AND STAY OF EXECUTION**

- A.** Any party may appeal a decision of the Commission to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court by lodging a written notice of appeal, in the form prescribed by the Navajo Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure and within ten (10) days after receipt of the Commission's decision.
- B.** In the absence of a stipulation by the parties approved by the Commission, a stay of execution of the decision from which the appeal is taken shall only be granted upon written application of the appellant to the Commission and an opportunity for response by appellee. The application for a stay shall be filed within the period prescribed for appeal in Subsection (A) hereof. No stay shall be issued unless the appellant presents a clear and convincing showing that each of the following requirements has been satisfied:
1. Appellant is likely to prevail on the merits of the appeal;
  2. Appellant will be irreparably harmed in the absence of a stay;
  3. Appellee and interested persons will not be substantially harmed by a stay;
  4. The public interest will be served by a stay; and
  5. An appeal bond or other security, in the amount and upon the terms prescribed by Subsection (C) below, has been filed with and approved by the Commission; provided that no appeal bond shall be required of ONLR, the Navajo Nation or any governmental agency or enterprise of the Navajo Nation.
- C.** The appeal bond shall be issued by a duly authorized and responsible surety which shall obligate itself to pay to appellee, or any other person in whose favor an award is made by the Commission decision, the amounts specified or described in the bond upon conclusion of the appeal and failure of appellant, following written demand by appellee, to satisfy the foregoing obligations. The amount or nature of liability assumed by the surety shall be specified in the bond and shall include:
1. The total amount of all monetary awards made in the Commission decision, together with such interest thereon as may be prescribed in the Commission's decision;
  2. Costs of appeal and attorneys' fees incurred by appellee in defending the appeal and which may be awarded to appellee by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court;



3. Damages sustained by appellee or other recipients of a Commission award for delay in satisfaction of the Commission decision caused by the appeal; and
4. Such other amount or liability reasonably required to be secured to protect the interests of the appellee or other award recipients.

The bond shall provide that the surety submits to the jurisdiction of the Commission and the Courts of the Navajo Nation, and irrevocably appoints the Commission as the surety's agent upon whom any papers affecting the surety's liability on the bond may be served. The surety's liability may be enforced on motion of the appellee filed with the Commission, with copies thereof served on the surety and appellant.

In lieu of posting an appeal bond, appellant may, with the approval of the Commission, post a cash bond and undertaking in the amount and upon the terms which are required above with respect to an appeal bond.

No appeal bond or cash bond and undertaking, nor the liabilities of the surety or appellant thereunder, shall be exonerated or released until all amounts and liabilities prescribed therein have been fully paid and satisfied.

- D. Within three business days following the filing with the Navajo Nation Supreme Court of any appeal from a Commission proceeding, the Clerk of such Court shall, in all cases other than those in which ONLR is not either the appellant or appellee, cause copies of the notice of appeal and all other documents filed in connection therewith to be sent to the ONLR Director and the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation. ONLR shall have an unconditional right to intervene and participate as amicus in the appeal proceedings upon timely application therefor by motion lodged with the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. ONLR's right of participation shall be coextensive with that of the parties to the appeal, including the rights to file opening, answering and reply briefs, and the right to present oral argument to the Court.

#### Section 14. NON-NAVAJO SPOUSES

- A. When a non-Navajo is legally married to a Navajo, he or she shall be entitled to preference in employment under the Act. Proof of marriage by a valid marriage certificate shall be required. In addition such non-Navajo spouse shall be required to have resided within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation for a continuous one-year period immediately preceding the application for Navajo preference consideration.

- B. Upon meeting the above requirements, such consideration shall be limited to preference in employment where the spouse would normally be in a pool of non-Navajo workers. In this instance, Navajo preference would place the non-Navajo spouse in the applicant pool of Navajos for consideration. However, preference priority shall still be given to all Navajo applicants who meet the necessary job qualifications within that pool.
- C. Non-Navajo spouses having a right to secondary preference under this Section shall also have and enjoy all other employment rights granted to Navajos under the Act, it being understood that Navajos retain a priority right with respect to provisions of the Act concerning preferential treatment in employment opportunities.

#### **Section 15. LIE-DETECTOR TEST**

- A. No person, shall request or require any employee or prospective employee to submit to, or take a polygraph examination as a condition of obtaining employment or of continuing employment or discharge or discipline in any manner an employee for failing, refusing, or declining to submit to or take a polygraph examination.
- B. For purposes of this section, "polygraph" means any mechanical or electrical instrument or device of any type used or allegedly used to examine, test, or question individuals for the purpose of determining truthfulness. This provision shall not apply to federal or state government employees.

#### **Section 16. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is hereby delegated the authority to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Act. The Commission is hereby delegated the authority to adopt and implement, on its own initiative and without any approval, rules of procedure and practice governing the conduct of proceedings under Section 11 of the Act; provided only that such rules are consistent with the provisions of the Act.

#### **Section 17. ALL PRIOR INCONSISTENT LAW IS REPEALED**

All prior Tribal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the Navajo Tribal Code previously adopted which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

#### **Section 18. EFFECTIVE DATE AND AMENDMENT OF THE ACT**

- A. The effective date of this Act shall be 60 days after the passage of the Act by the Navajo Nation Council and shall remain in effect until amended or repealed by the Navajo Nation Council.
- B. Any amendment or repeal of the Act shall only be effective upon approval of the Navajo Nation Council, and shall not be valid if it has the effect of amending,

modifying, limiting, expanding or waiving the Act for the benefit or to the detriment of a particular person.

- C. Any amendment to the Act, unless the amendment expressly states otherwise, shall be effective 60 days after the passage thereof by the Navajo Nation Council.
- D. The time limits prescribed in Section 10 relating to filing a Charge and subsequent proceedings thereon were added by amendment adopted by the Navajo Nation Council subsequent to the effective date of the original Act. Notwithstanding an actual accrual date for any alleged violation of the Act which is prior to the effective date of the amendment which added the time limits in Section 10 hereof, such alleged violation shall be deemed to accrue on the effective date of the foregoing amendment for purposes of all time limits set forth in Section 10.

#### **Section 19. SEVERABILITY OF THE ACT**

If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person, association, entity or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions or applications thereof.

